

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tree seedling plug comprising a tree seedling having roots, and a cylindrical plug of growing medium surrounding said roots, wherein said growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre.

2. The tree seedling plug of claim 1 wherein said growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture consisting of approximately 95% by weight coconut coir fibre,, and 5% by weight of thermal-sensitive fibre.

3. A tree seedling plug comprising a tree seedling having roots, and a first cylindrical plug of a first growing medium surrounding said roots, wherein said first growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre, and further comprising a second cylindrical plug of a second growing medium surrounding said first cylindrical plug.

4. The tree seedling plug of claim 3 wherein said first growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture consisting of approximately 95% by weight coconut coir fibre,, and 5% by weight of thermal-sensitive fibre.

5. The tree seedling plug of claim 3 wherein said second growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture comprising peat moss and sawdust.

6. A method of forming a seedling plug comprising

- i) filling a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre;
- ii) planting a tree seed in said hollow cell;
- iii) germinating said seed into a seedling and nurturing said seedling to provide root development;
- ii) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting

said seedling and growing medium to form said plug.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture consisting of approximately 95% by weight coconut coir fibre,, and 5% by weight of thermal-sensitive fibre.

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8. A method of forming a seedling plug comprising:

i) forming a first cylindrical plug of a first growing medium wherein said first growing medium comprises a network of Fibre-neth, by

a) filling a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre;

b) planting a tree seed in said hollow cell;

c) germinating said seed into a seedling and nurturing said seedling to provide root development;

d) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting said seedling and growing medium to form said first cylindrical plug;

ii) transplanting said first cylindrical plug into a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre;

iii) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting said seedling and growing medium to form said seedling plug.

9. A method of forming a seedling plug comprising:

i) forming a first cylindrical plug of a first growing medium wherein said first growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre, by

a) filling a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing medium comprises a network of Fibre-neth;

b) planting a tree seed in said hollow cell;

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c) germinating said seed into a seedling and nurturing said seedling to provide root development;

d) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting said seedling and growing medium to form said first cylindrical plug;

ii) transplanting said first cylindrical plug into a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing medium comprises a second growing medium;

iii) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting said seedling and growing medium to form said seedling plug.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said first growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture consisting of approximately 95% by weight coconut coir fibre, and 5% by weight of thermal-sensitive fibre.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein said second growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein said second growing medium a loose growing soil mixture comprising peat moss and sawdust.

13. The method of claim 5 wherein said growing medium comprising a network of Fibre-neth is formed by filling a tray of hollow cells with said growing medium, dipping said tray in a bath of hot water at a temperature of approximately 89 degrees Celsius, and then dipping said tray in a bath of water at tap water temperature, 5 to 10 degrees Celsius.

14. The method of claim 5 wherein said growing medium comprising a network of thermal-sensitive fibre is formed by filling a tray of hollow cells with said

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growing medium, and alternatively cascading water onto the tray to heat and cool the tray.

5 15. The tree seedling plug of claim 1 wherein said thermal-sensitive fibre is Fibre-neth.

16. The tree seedling plug of claim 3 wherein said thermal-sensitive fibre is Fibre-neth.

10 17. The method of claim 6 wherein said thermal-sensitive fibre is Fibre-neth.

18. The method of claim 8 wherein said thermal-sensitive fibre is Fibre-neth.

19. The method of claim 9 wherein said thermal-sensitive fibre is Fibre-neth.

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